

WHITE PANTHER PARTY

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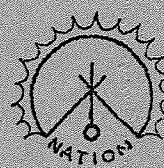
WHITE PANTHER PARTY MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Year of the Woodstock Nation

On November 10, 1970 White Panther Party Chairman John Sinclair, who is serving a 9½-10 year prison sentence at Jackson State Prison for possession of 2 marijuana cigarettes, was suddenly thrown in the "hole" (solitary confinement). All his legal papers, books, typewriter and personal belongings were taken away.

John immediately went on a hunger strike, the only weapon available to him to protest his unjust confinement. He had already been segregated from the rest of the general prison population since his transfer to Jackson from Marquette Prison, and this represents a further escalation on part of the prison officials to isolate John and keep him from communicating with his family and attorneys as well as with other inmates.

On Friday, November 13, there was a hearing before the Disciplinary Board, the prison's kangaroo court, at which John was "charged" with and "convicted" of "typing subversive and inflammatory" material on his typewriter and sentenced to the "hole" for an indefinite period of time. The Prison officials also alledged that John was involved in the current unrest at the institution and



that he constitutes a "threat to the security and good order of the institution."

The "subversive" material in question was a copy of the "Ideology of the Black Panther Party" by Eldridge Cleaver, and a copy of the Black Panther Party 10-Point Program and rules. The latter material had been brought into Jackson Prison with the approval of the censors by an inmate transferred from Marquette Prison. (For the complete charges see the attached copy of the Disciplinary Board.)

On Monday, November 16, 1970, 85% of the inmates at Jackson Prison went on strike to demand a minimum wage of \$1 per day. John first heard about the strike on the news over his prison earphones, yet Perry Johnson, warden of Jackson Prison and former Assistant Director of the "Corrections Department" said in a statement to the press that he believed John Sinclair to be one of the "ringleaders" behind the strike.

This is typical, in the long string of absurd lies Perry Johnson and his partner-in-crime, Gus Garrison, director of the "Corrections Department," have tried to perpetrate ever since John's incarceration a year and a half ago. When John was at Marquette Prison, a number of black inmates organized the Society for the Advancement of Educational and Rehabilitative Opportunities (SAERO). The main demand was that a course in Black Studies be added to the prison curriculum. This was interpreted as a "planned effort to disrupt Marquette Branch Prison" by the officials and 10 of the organizers of the SAERO and John Sinclair were put in the hole in Marquette.

Seven of them, including John, were transferred to Jackson Prison on September 11 as punishment. On October 7, six were released in the general population of Jackson Prison. Only John Sinclair was kept in the punishment block until November 10, when he was removed even further from the general population and put in the "hole."

Johnson states as part of his "evidence" the fact that John is intelligent and well-educated, and in Johnson's racist opinion John is the only prisoner with enough of those qualities to organize such a group as the SAERO or to organize a general strike for wage demands. (As a point of fact the Society was founded and organized solely by black prisoners and Johnson's comments reveals his practicing racism.

John Sinclair wrote in a letter to his wife Magdalene on November 19:

"I don't know if you've received anything from me this week since the letter I sent twice before--Sunday and Monday nights--was returned to me by Deputy Walbrec today. He tried to tell me it was "obscene and derogatory." What it contained was my ideas on proposals for the Revolutionary People's Constitutional Convention and a description of the charges made against me and the treatment I've received here in 5-West, including the charges that I'm supposed to be the "mastermind" behind all the progressive activity in Jackson and Marquette, including, but evidently not limited to the SAERO strike and the current wage strike. It's quite an honor, as I've said, and I only dream of being so effective someday, but it's a blatant lie, as usual."

Johnson and Harrison and their ilk have been feeding the people of Michigan lies for a long, long time. They believe that the people are stupid and will believe whatever they say because they are in power right now. We feel that the people themselves, once they learn the real facts about these politicians, will demand that they resign from their jobs or be fired, and that responsible people be elected who are truly interested in correction and not just in punishment. To further that effort, the White Panther Party and its attorneys, Buck Davis and Marc Stickgold, filed a petition for a writ of Habeas corpus in the Federal District Court in Detroit on November 18. The writ was denied by Federal Judge Cornelia Kennedy on the

grounds that the Federal Court had no jurisdiction over the matter. The ~~same~~ attorneys are now preparing a major suit, in which the corrections department is charged with violation of John's civil rights, with demands for damages and restoration of normal prison conditions for John. The facts will come to light as soon as John Sinclair and Perry Johnson take the stand and testify.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

DISCIPLINARY BOARD REPORT

Inst. SPSM Inmate (Name) Sinclair No. 123507 Viol. Date 11-10-70Officer Reporting Deputy EgelerNature of Viol. Violation of institutional rules

Officer's Statement

The custody staff has received reports that Mr. Sinclair has been writing material for radical groups in the institution. Recently, we have obtained Black Panther material in the cells of other inmates believed to have been typed on Mr. Sinclair's typewriter. Black Panther material in the possession of Callahan, 118625, and Dorsey, 124961, has been positively identified as having been typed on Mr. Sinclair's type writer. This constitutes a violation of an order by the Department of Corrections given Mr. Sinclair in August, 1969, and the typewriter rules given to Mr. Sinclair when his typewriter was registered.

Inmate's Statement Sinclair's advocate was Sgt. Norm Ames.

Mr. Sinclair denies writing material for any radical groups within the prison. He does, however, admit that he typed material found in the cell of Callahan, 118625, and Dorsey, 124961. He states that he did not know it was wrong to type such material for these men. He noted that Callahan asked him to type some material for him as the original copy was rather tattered. He also notes that Dorsey brought him some material to be typed, and that he typed a copy of this for Dorsey and also kept one for himself. He also indicated that he typed so many things for other individuals, such as legal papers and so on, and again maintained that he did not know this type of activity was against our rules.

Findings. We believe Mr. Sinclair is involved in the current unrest in this institution. Persons alleging to be Black Panthers have claimed credit for the recent assassination attempt on a corrections officer and the disturbance in the academic school and have made threats to the administration. The petition addressedly originated by Black Panthers circulating in the institution demands the release of John Sinclair from any form of segregation. The typewriter material coming from Mr. Sinclair in question here, is definitely Black Panther literature. There are distinct similarities between current unrest and planned efforts to disrupt the Marquette Branch Prison a short time ago in which John Sinclair was believed to be vitally involved. This coupled with Mr. Sinclair's avowed intentions of creating trouble for the Department of Corrections, leads us to believe that he constitutes a threat to the security and good order of this institution. We do not believe disciplinary action in the form of punishment would serve any useful purpose but it is apparent that Mr. Sinclair must be held in maximum security segregation.

Disposition Move to 5-West "000" indefinitely. To be seen by the "000" Board in December.

Deputy Walbrecca	Signed	(F. Walbrecca)
Officer Wojton		CHAIRMAN
John Hawley	Date	11-13-70

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